



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL KRISTEN D. THOMPSON

Col. Kristen D. Thompson is the Commander, 55th Wing, Offutt AFB, Neb. She is responsible for organizing, training and equipping six groups and 30 squadrons executing worldwide intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; electronic attack; and nuclear command, control and communications support. She is also responsible for support to more than 50 associate units, including U.S. Strategic Command, the 557th Weather Wing and more than 57,000 active-duty members, civilians, family members and retirees.

Col. Thompson earned her commission from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 2001. She attended Undergraduate Pilot Training at Laughlin AFB, Texas, and went onto Pilot Training at Tinker AFB, Okla. Afterwards, she was assigned as an E-3 Aircraft Commander with the 966th Airborne Air Control Squadron at Tinker AFB. Col. Thompson has been assigned to the Office of the Secretary of Defense where she was the Military Assistant to the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy. In this capacity, she assisted the Under Secretary in directing all strategic policy and planning for the Department of Defense. She is also the former Commander of the 960th Airborne Air Control Squadron, Tinker AFB, where she was responsible for the operations to execute national policy as directed by the National Command Authority through rapid worldwide employment of the E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System. Col. Thompson has served in a variety of positions, including speechwriter in the Secretary of the Air Force Executive Action Group where she prepared all strategic communication for the Secretary, Under Secretary, Chief of Staff and Vice Chief of Staff, and Executive Officer to the Combined Forces Air Component Commander at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar.



Additionally, Col. Thompson has flown and deployed in support of Operations NOBLE EAGLE, IRAQI FREEDOM, NEW DAWN, UNIFIED PROTECTOR, ENDURING FREEDOM, AFGHAN ASSIST, INHERENT RESOLVE, SPARTAN SHIELD, FREEDOM'S SENTINEL and OCTAVE QUARTZ. Prior to her current duty, she served as Commander, 380th Expeditionary Operations Group, Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates, where she ran the busiest, most dynamic airfield in the U. S. Air Force, consisting of 11 platforms which covered all five Air Force core mission sets.

Col. Thompson is a command pilot with more than 3,800 flying hours, including more than 700 combat hours in the U.S. and NATO E-3 AWACS.

EDUCATION

- 2001 Bachelor of Science, Biology, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- 2006 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
- 2006 Master of Arts, Psychology-Human Relations, University of Oklahoma, Okla.
- 2011 Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence
- 2012 Air Force Intern Program and Government Affairs Institute Fellow-Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.
- 2012 RAND Corporation Legislative Fellowship, Washington, D.C.
- 2013 Air War College Excellent Graduate, by correspondence
- 2018 National War College, Ft. McNair, Washington, D.C.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. May 2001 - March 2003, Student Undergraduate Pilot Training, Laughlin AFB, Texas
2. March 2003 - January 2004, E-3 Pilot Training, 966th Airborne Air Control Squadron, Tinker AFB, Okla.
3. January 2004 - September 2006, E-3 Aircraft Commander, Chief Scheduler, 965th Airborne Air Control Squadron, Tinker AFB, Okla.
4. September 2006 - October 2007, Flight Commander, 965th Airborne Air Control Squadron, Tinker AFB, Okla.
5. October 2007 - February 2009, Wing Executive Officer & Instructor Pilot, 552nd Air Control Wing, Tinker AFB, Okla.
6. February 2009 - Dec 2009, Chief of Safety, 965th Airborne Air Control Squadron, Tinker AFB, Okla.
7. January 2010 - March 2010, Pilot, NATO Airborne Early Warning, Geilenkirchen Air Base, Germany
8. March 2010 - November 2011, Chief, Commander's Action Group, NATO AEW, Geilenkirchen AB, Germany
9. November 2011 - June 2012, CFACC/Commander, United States Air Forces Central Executive Officer, deployed to Al Udeid AB, Qatar
10. July 2012 - December 2013, Air Force Legislative Fellow, Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.
11. December 2013 - May 2014, Speechwriter SecAF-CSAF Executive Action Group, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
12. November 2014 - June 2015, Director of Operations, 966th Airborne Air Control Squadron, Tinker AFB, Okla.
13. June 2015 - July 2017, Commander, 960th Airborne Air Control Squadron, Tinker AFB, Okla.
14. July 2017 - June 2018, Student, National War College, Ft Lesley McNair, Washington, D.C.
15. June 2018 - May 2020, Military Assistant to Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
16. June 2020 - June 2021, Commander, 380th Expeditionary Operations Group, Al Dhafra AB, UAE
17. June 2021 - present, Commander, 55th Wing, Offutt AFB, Neb.

SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

1. June 2018 - May 2020, Military Assistant to Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight hours: More than 3,800, including over 700 combat hours

Aircraft: E-3A/B/C/G, E-11, EC-130H, KC-10, RQ-4/EQ-4

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Superior Service Medal

Legion of Merit

Bronze Star

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Air Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Aerial Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant May 30, 2001

First Lieutenant May 30, 2003

Captain May 30, 2005

Major April 1, 2011

Lieutenant Colonel February 1, 2015

Colonel March 1, 2019

(Current as of June 2021)